



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

LLANTARNAM URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

F. CARLTON JONES,

M.B., Ch.B. (Vict), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

INCLUDING

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

REPORT.



CWMBRAN, MON.

By CHAS. PRICE, Printer and Bookbinder.

1926.

Llantarnam Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending December 31st, 1925.

C WMBRAN,

March, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llantarnam
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your district. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health, and is known as a Survey Report

Natural and Social Conditions.

Physical Features.—The district extends for three miles along the Eastern Valley, the mountains, extending beyond the one border, are some distance away and the district lies in the open country.



Areas (in acres)	...	...	4,099
Population (census 1921)	...	...	7,452
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) 1925	...	...	7,955
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	1,430
Number of families or separate occupiers			1,600
Sum represented by 1d rate	...	...	£108
Rateable Value	...	...	£33,215

Social Conditions.— This is mainly an industrial area, the inhabitants being principally employed in the iron trade. The works in the district are :

1. Messrs. Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds (Ironworks).
2. Cwmbran Chemical Works.
3. Messrs. Whitehead and Hill (Wireworks).
4. The Star Brick and Tile Works.

None of these industries have any special influence on the public health. There has been a considerable amount of unemployment in the district during the past few years.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Males	Females
BIRTHS—Legitimate	155	81	74
Illegitimate	3	1	2
Birth Rate	19·5		
Birth rate for Llantarnam, 1923	...	...	22·9
„ „ „ 1924	...	...	23·8
Birth rate for England and Wales, 1924			18·8
„ „ „ „ 1925			18·3



		Total	Male	Female
DEATHS	...	76	38	38
	Death Rate	...	9·6	
Death rate for Llantarnam, 1923			..	10·4
" " " " " "			1924	... 10·6
Death rate for England and Wales, 1924				12·2
" " " " " "			.. 1925	12·2

Infant Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year :—

Male ... 6 .. Female ... 5

Infant death rate per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate, 63·3 ; Illegitimate, 6·3. Total 69·6.

The rate for England and Wales for 1925 is 75.

There were no cases of death from, or in consequence of, child birth.

Amount of Poor Law Relief.

The amount of poor law relief administered by the Relieving Officer in your district during 1925 was £4260 12s. 4d. Thirty cases from the district were admitted to the Union Infirmary.

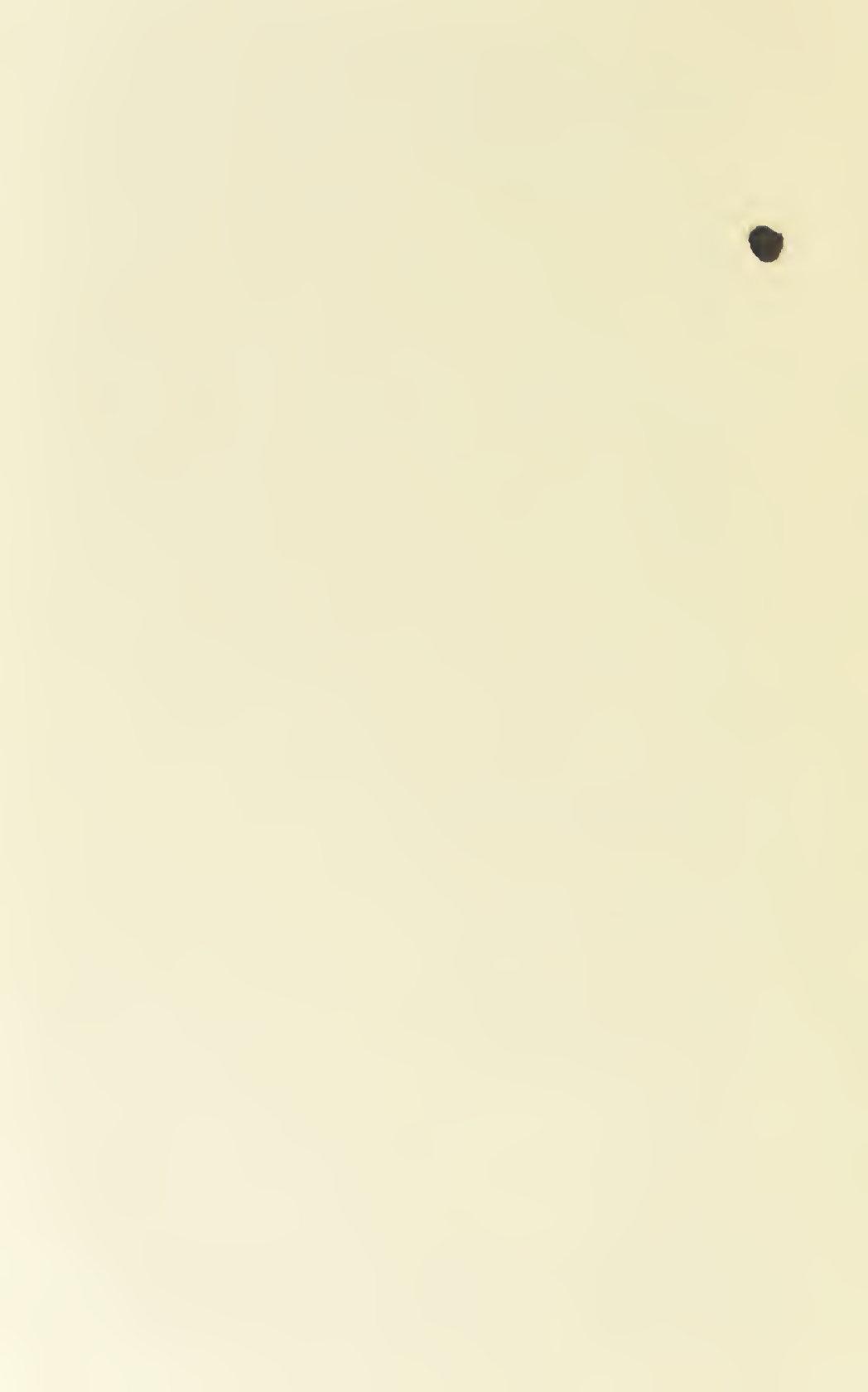
Causes of Sickness.

The outstanding cause of sickness during the year was the continuance of cases of diphtheria, which had attained epidemic proportions by the end of 1924. After this epidemic had subsided there was an outbreak of whooping cough of some severity. It was very prevalent among the school children and accounted for three deaths.



Causes of Death.

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males	Females
All Causes	...	...		38	38
Whooping Cough		...			3
Diphtheria		...			3
Influenza		...			1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)				2	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases				1	
Cancer, Malignant Disease				2	3
Diabetes	...	...			1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.				3	
Heart Disease				7	8
Arterio-Sclerosis		..		2	4
Bronchitis					2
Pneumonia (all forms)				4	2
Other Respiratory Diseases				1	
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)					2
Appendicitis	...			1	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis					1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth				4	
Suicide					1
Other Deaths from Violence				1	
Other Defined Diseases				9	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown				1	
Death of Infants { Total under 1 year { Illegitimate				6	4 1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...			82	76
Legitimate				81	74
Illegitimate				1	2
POPULATION		...		7955	



General Provision of Health Services

Professional Nursing in the Home.—The Cwmbran and Llantarnam Nursing Association provide a Queen Victoria Nurse for medical and surgical cases only, whose services are much appreciated and who is a great benefit to the district. The Association is kept up entirely by private subscriptions, the men employed at the various works being the chief subscribers.

For infectious diseases, measles, influenza, etc., nursing is carried out by the County Council on application to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Midwives.—No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Local Public Health Authority. There are three registered midwives resident in the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held at Cwmbran once a week. There are no day nurseries. School clinics are held at Newport. Tuberculosis patients attend at the Tuberculosis Institute, Newport, and venereal diseases at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.—No hospitals are provided or subsidised by the Council.

Hospitals available for the area are Royal Gwent Hospital (Newport), Royal Infirmary (Cardiff), Poor Law Infirmary (Newport), Newport Corporation Isolation Hospital take in cases of infectious diseases when they have beds. Selected tuberculosis cases are admitted to Cefn Maberly Hospital, Newport. Small pox cases are dealt with by the County Council.



There is no institution provided for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children in the district, these cases are taken in charge by the Guardians of the Poor.

Ambulance Facilities.—Infectious cases going to the Newport Borough Fever Hospital are conveyed by the Borough Ambulance. Accidents at Cwmbran Colliery are conveyed to Royal Gwent Hospital by the Colliery Ambulance ; other cases have to make their own arrangements.

An Ambulance would be of immense service in the district.

Laboratory Work.

All laboratory work is undertaken by the County Council. Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued free of cost upon request to local practitioners.

Public Health Officers.

Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time officer) and the Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Surveyor.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from Llanfrechfa Upper Urban District Council. It is obtained from springs in the Upper Cwmbran mountain (at an elevation of over 1,000 feet above sea-level), conveyed to a reservoir and distributed in iron mains by gravitation to different parts of the district.

In certain parts of your area there is no supply of water from this source, and the quantity in the area supplied is insufficient for our needs.

In view of the great amount of organic impurities that were coming through, you brought the matter to the notice of the Llanfrechfa Urban District Council and the filters were overhauled. An analysis of the water showed no bacterial contamination.



A more plentiful supply of water is needed in your district and, I think, would be particularly helpful in many of the farm buildings in maintaining a greater degree of cleanliness in the cowsheds.

Rivers and Streams.

These are contaminated by sewage.

Drainage and Sewage.

Your sewerage system is very unsatisfactory. The main disposal is by cesspools, which are periodically emptied. Other sewage flows direct, or is emptied into brooks and streams which eventually flow into the river. In case of floods, the fields are flooded with sewage-contaminated water. The sewage is not filtered.

Practically no improvement has been effected in this unsatisfactory system for many years. In a district in which the population is steadily increasing and cases of overcrowding are so common, I should like to lay stress on the inadequency of this primitive method of disposal of sewage. I understand you are making endeavours to become dissociated from the Eastern Valley Sewerage Board in order that a radical improvement may be brought about.

Closet Accommodation.

There is seen practically every type of closet in the area. Some houses have the water closet with flush tank, some have water closets without flush tanks (the water being conveyed in buckets). Then there are many closets consisting of buckets and dry-earth, the refuse being buried in the ground. Others have cesspools discharging into open ditches, eventually discharging into the streams. There are still privies in some districts which are emptied when full. These unsatisfactory arrangements are bound-up in the general sewage question.

Scavenging.

Removal of ashes, house and street refuse is carried out by the Council, motor lorries and carts being used for



the purpose. They are not covered. The refuse is disposed of on a suitable tipping ground.

Sanitary Inspection.

The number of visits made during 1925 totalled 157. These were made up of inspections for damp, structural defects, and conditions arising from overcrowding and faulty drains.

The number of informal notices served was 67, statutory 27.

These notices were generally effectual, expensive and extensive repairs were, in some cases, allowed to stand over.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the elementary schools is generally good. The St. Dials School is badly overcrowded, however, and further accommodation is required.

The Roman Catholic Schools is a new building and is very satisfactory.

Housing.

General Housing Conditions. The housing conditions are bad. At least 150 houses are required to meet the demand.

Measures taken to meet the shortage :—

By the Council, in hand	...	10
By private enterprise, in hand		8
		—
Total	...	<u>18</u>

Overcrowding.

EXTENT.—The overcrowding is to the extent that in at least the 150 cases the houses are occupied by two and sometimes three families.

CAUSES. Supply unequal to the requirements.

MEASURES TAKEN.—As above.



EXAMPLE.—Row of six houses containing three small bedrooms :—

No. 1, females (adult) 1, males (adult) 4, children 2 - 7 (^{two} _{families})						
„ 2,	„	3,	„	„	3,	„ 8 - 14 „
„ 3,	„	1,	„	„	3,	„ 2 - 6
„ 4,	„	2,	„	„	2,	„ 9 - 13
„ 5,	„	1,	„	„	2,	„ 6 - 9
„ 6,	„	1,	„	„	2,	„ 7 - 10

Fitness of Houses.—The general standard in this district is fair. The common defects found are structural—for example—leaking roofs, defective ceilings and floors; lack of adequate lighting and insufficient headroom are other common defects. It is difficult in many cases to get owners to carry out extensive structural repairs on old houses which, under better housing conditions would be closed as no longer fit for habitation.

In some cases tenants could considerably improve matters by the exercise of care and cleanliness.

General Action as regards Unfit Houses

(Public Health Act and Town Planning Act.)

The general action is by service of preliminary notices and interviews with owners and agents to bring about necessary alterations and repairs.

Bye-Laws.

We have a set of bye-laws which cover the needs of the district in respect of houses, tents, vans and sheds. Every assistance is given by the Officers of the Council in improving the general health. This takes the form of advice as to the proper use of household fittings, supply of disinfectants, and the inspection and disinfection of houses where there have been infectious cases.



Housing Statistics for year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year	8
(a) Total	8
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme...	—

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	107
---	-----

2.—Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... 50

3.—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... —

4.—Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation —

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	67
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served, resulting in repairs ... 27

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :

 (a) By owners ... 27

 (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... nil



(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil
--	-----	-----	-----

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	56
--	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied		
--	--	--

(a) By owners	56
---------------	-----	-----	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
---	-----	-----	-----

C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 :

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	...	nil
--	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	...	nil
--	-----	-----

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	nil
--	-----	-----

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	nil
---	-----	-----

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	nil
--	-----	-----



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—The milk supply of the district is good. Samples were sent and submitted to the county pathologist and no bacteriological impurities with dangerous action were discovered.

Meat. (Public Health Meat Regulations).—There is one slaughterhouse in your district; this is in a satisfactory condition. It is inspected periodically (*see* Sanitary Inspector's Report).

Other Foods.—All shops, stores, bakehouses, and everything connected with the conveyance and sale of food are attended to by the Sanitary Inspector.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

The cowsheds and dairies were inspected and attention paid to questions of structure, lighting and cleanliness.

The general standard is good but in some cases extensive alterations are very necessary and obsolete cowsheds will require replacing to come up to the necessary standards. At present efforts are being made to encourage building of up-to-date structures, and necessary alterations and improvements are to be carried out.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the period 1920-1925, the prevalence of infectious diseases generally has been above the average. During 1924-1925 occurred the serious epidemic of diphtheria.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is promptly used and a supply is provided by the Council and kept by the Medical Officer and is supplied to practitioners requiring it on request.

Bacteriological and pathological specimens are examined by the county pathologist and full use is made of this facility.



No use has been made of the "Shick" and "Dick" tests.

Measles, chicken pox and whooping cough have been prevalent during the year. Influenza was not prevalent, there was one death recorded from this cause.

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No facilities are available in the area for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings.

Premises and articles which have been exposed to infection are disinfected by fumigation.

Diphtheria Outbreak.

(a) COMMENCEMENT.—The first case was seen at the latter end of October, 1924, but unfortunately, not until the disease was in an advanced stage; it was immediately removed to the Alt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, where it died. Five "contact" cases immediately followed and these were also removed to hospital.

(b) COURSE.—All cases could be traced back to the first, which was a child who had just arrived in the district on a visit from Newport. There were a large number of "carriers," very difficult to trace down. Eleven cases had been notified up to the end of 1924. Sixty-three cases were notified during 1925.

(c) METHOD OF DEALING WITH EPIDEMIC.—One of the gravest difficulties in dealing with the epidemic was the terrible state of overcrowding in the areas in which it occurred, which rendered even a temporary isolation almost impossible. By the time a child could be removed to hospital several others had inevitably been infected. To add to this difficulty many of the cases were two or three days old before the doctor was consulted.



Secondly, it was exceedingly difficult to keep the "carrier" cases controlled. The County Medical Officer rendered us every assistance by having all the scholars swabbed periodically. The "carriers," however, despite all precautions were continually creating fresh cases.

Thirdly, I have grounds for believing that there were a few mild cases which were never discovered at all. The doctor was not consulted and the cases recovered without treatment; these must have been a source of great damage.

Fourthly, there were frequent floods when the epidemic was at its height and our imperfect sewerage system no doubt contributed in some measure to the continuance of the fever.

The great majority of the cases were sent with the greatest despatch to the isolation hospital; only cases where efficient isolation could be carried out were allowed to remain at home, and then only in case of pressure on hospital space. After the removal of a case, the Sanitary Inspector disinfected the infected house.

The schools were closed for two periods.

You authorised me to engage a special nurse to carry out house-to-house swabbing in the infected areas and to keep observation on "carrier" cases.

A Sub-Committee of three of your Council, together with the Sanitary Inspector and myself, was appointed to deal with all questions arising out of the epidemic.

You acquired a house in an isolated district and equipped it to accommodate up to five "carrier" cases. This proved most satisfactory.

Water supplies and milk supplies were sent to the Borough Analyst and were found to be free of any infection.



Anti-diphtheria toxin in minimum 8,000 unit doses was used in every case.

There were three fatal cases. The cases in hospital and at home made good recoveries and complications were very rare.

NOTIFICATIONS.

1924 ... 11 ... 1925 ... 63 ... Total .. 74

Total deaths ... 3 Percentage ... 2·2.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 12 months	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20 years
2	5	6	5	7	29	14	3

Over 50 per cent. of the cases were in children of school age.

The deaths occurred in children under three years.

Fifty of the cases were treated in Alt-yr-yn Hospital.

Finally, it may be instructive to take the following area incidence:—

Wesley Street and immediate neighbourhood 17 = 23%

Llandowlais Street, Two Locks Road, Belle

Vue Road and Oakfield 21 = 28%

This is where we had the greatest trouble and where the overcrowding is so marked.

The cost of the epidemic to your Council exceeded £800.

Disease	Notifiable		Diseases.			Deaths
	Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital			
Small Pox	...	nil	...	nil	...	nil
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	nil	...	nil
Diphtheria	...	63	...	51	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	nil	...	nil
Puerperal „	...	nil	...	nil	...	nil
Other Notifiable Diseases (Erysipelas)	2	...	...	nil	...	nil



Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary:		Non-Pulmonary:		Pulmonary:		Non-Pulmonary:	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	4	3	0	1	2	2	0	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under these regulations during 1925, or under Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. CARLTON JONES.



Llantarnam Urban District Council.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

CWMBRAN, MON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llantarnam
Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg herewith to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

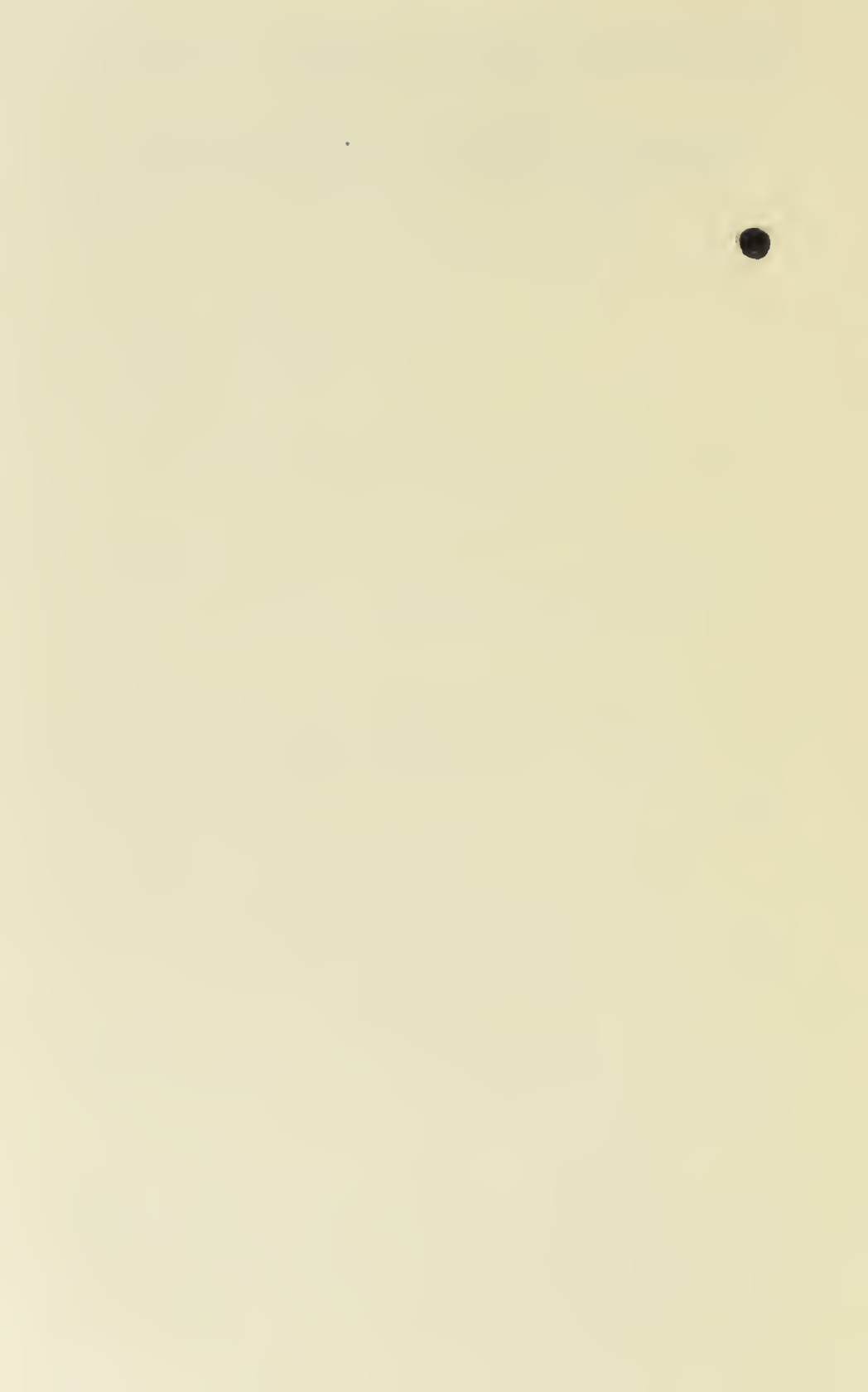
House Inspection.

During the year 157 houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts and the Public Health Act, 1875.

In many cases which would mean very heavy expenditure, I have arranged for the attention to the roofs, floors, etc., as being the most essential, and for the more general repairs to be done later on.

In the case of nuisances arising from defective drainage, the landlord's or agent's attention has been called to same and the necessary work has been done without the issuing of any notices.

The employees of the Council (acting under instructions) have attended to complaints, in some cases as a matter of urgency, in others to protect health. These attentions particularly refer to drains and mains.



All lengths of new drains were subjected to a proper machine smoke test, and in a few cases joints were found defective, which were immediately remedied and tested again.

Before any house is certified fit for human habitation, careful inspection of the drains, sanitary fittings and soil pipes, etc., is made, also if same complies with the plan approved by the Council and the Bye-Laws.

Disinfecting.

During the year 15 houses have been disinfected.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of the district is done by contract, the contractor making the collection of the house refuse twice weekly. With a few exceptions the contractor carried out his duties in a satisfactory manner. In some parts of the district the inhabitants disregard the method of the bi-weekly collection, with the result that there are miniature refuse tips to be found without consideration to health of the district. These actions present difficulties because the defaulters are not known.

G.W.R. Canal.

This is inspected in the daily routine of work, on account of the towing path being used so frequently and, when cause to complain has been made, I have found every assistance to deal with same from the Canal Depot of the G.W.R. Company.

Some people, without consideration as to results to health, throw carcases of dead animals into the canal, which of course decompose and, apart from the offensive smell that emanates therefrom, are likely to have far reaching effects on the health of children who frequently play near; also upon adults who use the towpath considerably.



Slaughter Houses.

There is one slaughter house in your district and this is kept in a satisfactory condition. Part of the slaughtering is done on unlicensed premises and attention is paid as to cleanliness, the drainage, etc. A fair amount of meat is imported from other districts, but since the Meat Regulations have been in force, it is surprising of the amount of killing that is done that the question of a public abattoir which the Council have had under consideration would be well to consider again.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 48 cowsheds in your district, which are periodically examined. Special attention has been paid for the requirements of light and ventilation; impervious floors; internal surfaces being limewashed and proper drainage. In some cases the cowsheds have been remodelled, and in others where it is somewhat overcrowded additional up-to-date sheds are going to be built. Samples of milk for tests of fat standard are regularly taken by County Inspector, whose reports have been very satisfactory.

The dairies and utensils are kept in a very clean condition, and keep the milk clean and cool.

Factories and Workshops.

There are in your district 7 factories, 9 bakehouses and 18 workshops, making a total of 34 registered workshops. Inspection has been periodically made, especially as regards ventilation, light, limewashing and lavatory accommodation. In one case the sanitary accommodation has been altered and put in a proper sanitary condition. No other complaints have been found.



Van Dwellings.

During 1925 frequent visits have been paid to the ground which the van dwellers use, such as gipsies and travelling hawkers and every endeavour has been taken to get them to move on as soon as possible, but being on private land and unfenced, it is difficult to get the assistance of the Police in the matter who, although, have given me as much assistance as in their power to do.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the district is furnished by the Llanfrechfa Urban District Council. In some parts of the district (outlying buildings and farm houses) the water for general purposes is obtained from wells, springs, and tapped mountain sides and, in a few cases, these are not above suspicion, and it is hoped that an adequate supply will be available in the future.

Sewage Disposal.

There is no proper system of sewerage in the district; where there are sewers they discharge in several different points into open ditches and streams, which in summer time are very objectionable. Other houses cesspits, buckets, and catchpit, some of which are difficult to keep in a sanitary condition.

I am pleased to record the absence of any necessity of instituting legal proceedings in order to secure abatement of nuisances, etc. I wish to convey thanks to the Members of the Council and their Officers, who at all times have given me their cordial co-operation and assistance.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR F. VINEY.



COPY:

LLANTARNAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Council Offices,
Cwmbran,
Mon.

March 26, 1927.

Supplementary Report, 1925.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

1. Notice of Slaughtering.

There is one slaughter house in the Llantarnam District and slaughtering is carried out at fixed times twice a week. Inspections are carried out at the times of slaughter. Meat marking is not performed.

Condemned or diseased meat is buried at a depth of five feet and covered with lime. This was done on one occasion.

2. Stalls, Shops, Stores and Vehicles.

The regulations are carried out in all shops and stores. Meat is not offered for sale in the area from vehicles. Periodical Inspections are made.

3. There is one registered Public Slaughter-house. This barely meets with all the needs of the District and is not a satisfactory building. It is inspected regularly.

(Sgd.) F. CARLTON JONES.

M.B., M.R.C.S.

